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ILLUSTRATIONS OF FUNGI—XXIII

WILLIAM A. MURRILL

In *Mycologia* for January, 1916, an index was given to the species illustrated in the first 22 articles of this series, the drawings of which were prepared by Mr. Edward C. Volkert. The plate accompanying the present article is from original studies by Miss Mary E. Eaton; and the descriptions are largely taken from Dr. Burlingham's monograph of the American species of *Russula* recently published in Volume 9, part 4, of *North American Flora*. For descriptions of the 13 species of *Russula* previously figured in this series, see *Mycologia* 4: pl. 68, 76, and 7: pl. 160, 163.

Russula delica Fries

SHORT-STEMMED RUSSULA

Plate 185. Figure 1. $\times 1$

Pileus fleshy, of medium thickness, firm, broadly convex-umbilicate, then spreading, and at length infundibuliform, 8–16 cm. broad; surface white, sometimes with yellowish stains when the pileus has brought soil up with it, easily staining yellowish in drying, dry, glabrous or sometimes under the lens appearing obscurely tomentose from the pulling apart of the fibers in the outer layer; margin even, involute, late in expanding; context firm, white, unchanging where bruised, slowly becoming slightly acrid; lamellae white, the edges often becoming faintly glaucous-green when mature or in the process of drying, becoming yellowish where

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ILLUSTRATIONS OF FUNGI

rubbed, some equal, some forking, narrowed at both ends, decurrent, subdistant to distant, rather narrow; spores subglobose, hyaline, tuberculate, $10 \times 9 \mu$; stipe white, sometimes with a glaucous-green ring at the apex, glabrous or sometimes slightly downy at the apex under a lens, 2–5 cm. long, 1–2 cm. thick.

Found commonly in dry woods, especially under conifers, from Maine to Alabama and west to Colorado. It very much resembles *Lactaria piperata*, but is without milky juice and the hymenium is usually tinged with glaucous-green. Peck includes it in his list of edible fungi and remarks that it is excellent fried in butter. It is more compact and lasts longer than most species of *Russula*.

***Russula flava* Romell**

YELLOW RUSSULA

Plate 185. Figure 2. $\times 1$

Pileus fleshy, broadly convex, becoming plane or slightly depressed at the center, 5–8 cm. broad; surface flavous or golden-yellow, sometimes discolored with age, viscid when wet, glabrous; margin even to slightly striate when mature; context white, becoming gray with age and in drying, the taste mild; lamellae white, becoming pale-yellow, then gray with age, equal, not forking, adnexed, close, broader at the outer ends; spores pale-yellow, globose, echinulate, $8\text{--}9 \mu$ in diameter; stipe white, becoming more or less gray with age or in drying, nearly equal, obscurely reticulate-rivulose, spongy, 5–8 cm. long, 1–2 cm. thick.

Found in mixed woods from New England westward to Michigan. Unfortunately, neither this species nor the two other beautiful yellow species, *Russula lutea* and *Russula flavida*, are very abundant.

***Russula virescens* (Schaeff.) Fries**

GREEN RUSSULA

Plate 185. Figure 3. $\times 1$

Pileus fleshy, globose, becoming convex, then nearly plane and often centrally depressed, 5–12 cm. broad; surface green or grayish-green, dry, with small, flocculose patches or warts resembling

those of *Venenarius*; margin even, rarely slightly striate in old specimens; context white, mild to the taste; lamellae white, a few short ones present, some forking, narrow toward the stipe and nearly or quite free, rather crowded; spores subglobose, echinulate, hyaline, $8 \times 7 \mu$; stipe white, firm, nearly equal, 2.5–5 cm. long, 1.2–2 cm. thick.

Found in oak, maple, or mixed woods from Maine to Virginia and westward to Michigan and Ohio. This beautiful species has long enjoyed a reputation for edibility, but, unfortunately, it is rather rare and its flavor is not really of first rank. It may be recognized by the greenish color and warted appearance of its pileus. The pileus of *Russula furcata*, a bitter species formerly considered poisonous, is green but not warted. The green form of *Venenarius phalloides* and the poisonous *Entoloma lividum*, both common in Europe, are easily distinguished by other characters.

***Russula obscura* Romell**

OBSCURE RUSSULA

Plate 185. Figure 4. $\times 1$

A paler form of this species was figured and described in *Mycologia* for November, 1912. The color is usually dull-dark-red as here represented, the disk often being blackish. The species usually occurs on the ground in coniferous woods and is known from New England, New York, and Mississippi.

***Russula compacta* Frost & Peck**

COMPACT RUSSULA

Plate 185. Figure 5. $\times 1$

Pileus fleshy, broadly convex, sometimes umbilicate, becoming centrally depressed or infundibuliform, 7.5–15 cm. broad; surface white or whitish, becoming rusty-ochraceous, dry or subviscid after heavy rains, unpolished, glabrous, margin even; context compact, white, mild or slightly and tardily acrid, the odor in drying strong and disagreeable; lamellae white, becoming reddish-brown where wounded and smoky-brown in drying, unequal, oc-

casionally forked, rather crowded to subdistant, adnate or slightly rounded behind; spores globose to subglobose, nearly smooth, hyaline, 7μ in diameter; stipe white but becoming stained with reddish-brown in handling or where wounded, and sometimes changing color like the pileus, equal or nearly so, solid, 3.5–6.5 cm. long, 1.2–2.5 cm. thick.

Found in pine groves or mixed woods in New England, New York, and New Jersey. Peck says it is edible. The flesh is firm as in *R. delicæ*, *R. nigricans*, and other members of the *Compactæ*.

NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN.